

industry as per the "Code of Principle" which lay down guidelines and procedure for sanction of expenditure for schemes benefiting labour and the industry. The schemes are approved by the Regional Salt Advisory Boards of the respective States. Funds released out of cess for schemes benefiting industry and labour for salt producing States during last three years include laying of approach roads in salt works, establishment of community and primary health care centres, construction of rest sheds in salt works, provision of drinking water facilities to salt labourers, organising health care and eye camps, provision of educational facilities to the children of salt labourers, construction of brine supply channels and provision of other infrastructural facilities connected with development of salt industry etc.

CIL Projects

3217. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Coal mining projects started by Coal India Ltd. during Eighth Plan period;

(b) the total amount of investment required for those projects;

(c) whether the required funds are available with CIL;

(d) if not, the sources explored by CIL acquire funds for these projects; and

(e) the present status of those project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). 28 coal mining project each costing Rs. 20 crores and above at an investment of Rs. 1655.17 crores were started by Coal India Limited (CIL) during the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

(c) and (d). Out of 28 projects, 4 projects have since been completed. Of the remaining 24 projects, funding for 4 projects has been tied up with Suppliers. Credit and 2 projects are tied up with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan which is still to be finalised. Remaining 18 projects require a capital outlay of Rs. 821.12 crores and can be financed from internal resources of CIL.

(e) Of the 24 projects under implementation, 22 are progressing as per their schedule of completion. Whereas 2 are slightly slow for the reason set out at para (c) and (d) of this answer.

Production and Export of Cardamom

3218. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(b) the reasons for decline in the export of the cardamom during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any specific plan to overcome the crisis being faced by the cardamom industry and to increase the export of cardamom;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to fix the floor price for the cardamom during the current year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Details of exports of cardamom (small) during the last 3 (three) years are as under :-

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Value (in lakhs Rs.)
1993-94	387	1454.83
1994-95	257	762.61
1995-96 (P)	500	1239.55

(Source: DGCI and S. Calcutta/ spices Board)

(b) Some of the reasons for decline in exports of cardamom are :

(i) Uncompetitive prices of Indian Cardamom in international market vis-a-vis Guatemala Cardamom;

(ii) Large production and absence of domestic market in Guatemala;

(iii) Shift in the buying pattern in the middle east markets towards low priced cardamom of Guatemala.

(c) and (d). Some of the steps taken by Government to increase production/productivity and exports of cardamom are; (i) production and supply of quality planting material; (ii) assistance for replantation of old, diseased plants; (iii) subsidy for Irrigation and land development; (iv) assistance for purchase of plant protection equipments; (v) suspension of export cess on cardamom; and (vi) efforts are made to popularise cardamom in domestic/international markets through participation in trade fairs, sending delegations abroad and inflight promotion.

(e) No Sir.

(f) The currently ruling prices does not necessitate fixation of a floor price for small cardamom.